

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-02 H-01

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 OIC-02 COM-02 AGR-05

AID-05 EB-07 RSC-01 TRSE-00 SWF-01 CIAE-00 INR-05

NSAE-00 OMB-01 AF-04 ARA-06 NEA-06 CEA-01 CIEP-01

/109 W

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R 061734Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6336

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EAID, UN, FAO, WFC, UK

SUBJECT: UK REACTION TO WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

SUMMARY. CONSENSUS OF UK DELEGATION TO WORLD FOOD

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CONFERENCE AGREED WITH US VIEW THAT WFC WAS GENERALLY

SUCCESSFUL. ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS WERE REALISTIC.
THERE WAS A MINIMUM OF POLEMICS ON PART OF LDCS AND
GROWING RECOGNITION OF NEED TO PROMOTE GREATER FOOD
PRODUCTION. POSITIVE ATTITUDE OF USG WAS APPLAUDED.
END SUMMARY

1. EMBASSY SOUGHT UK REACTION TO WFC FROM KEY MEMBERS
OF UK DELEGATION, REPRESENTING MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
FISHERIES AND FOOD (J.J.V.DAVIES, UNDERSECRETARY, A. V.
VICKERY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY), OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT
MINISTRY (BRIAN CRACKNELL, SENIOR ECONOMIC ADVISOR),
AND FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE (NIGEL WEBER-SMITH,
UN DEPARTMENT). THOUGH MAFF AND ODM APPROACHED CONFER-
ENCE WITH SOMEWHAT DIFFERING VIEWS OF GLOBAL FOOD
PROBLEM (DIFFERENCES WHICH ODM AND FCO FEEL PARALLEL
US STATE/AGRICULTURE DIFFERENCES), ALL MEMBERS OF
DELEGATION AGREED THAT WFC WAS GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL
AND CITED FOLLOWING POSITIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

A. REALISTIC RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED COVERING BOTH
THE ISSUES AND THE OBJECTIVES TO BE ACCOMPLISHED IF
THE GOAL OF ELIMINATING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION IS
EVENTUALLY TO BECOME A REALITY. FAO'S EXCELLENT
ASSESSMENT PAPER WHICH WAS ACCEPTED BY ALL PARTICIPANTS
WAS CITED AS A KEY TO FOSTERING THIS REALISTIC APPROACH.

B. IT WAS MADE CLEAR TO THE LDCS AND ACCEPTED BY
MOST THAT IT IS NOW UP TO THEM TO INITIATE SOCIAL AND
ECONOMIC STRUCTURAL REFORM TO PROMOTE GREATER FOOD
PRODUCTION.

C. WHILE THE FOOD/POPULATION ISSUE WAS PLAYED AT A LOW
KEY, MORE PROGRESS WAS MADE IN GAINING ACCEPTANCE OF
THE NEED TO CONTROL POPULATION GROWTH THAN WAS
APPARENT AT WPC.

D. WHILE THE CONFERENCE DEALT IN GENERALITIES AND
CONTAINED MORE RHETORIC THAN SUBSTANCE, IT MUST BE
CONSIDERED A DISTINCT PLUS THAT MACHINERY WAS
ESTABLISHED TO DEAL WITH THE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS OF
FOOD AID AND FOOD SECURITY. THIS ACCEPTANCE OF THE
NEED TO TAKE DECISIVE ACTION BY COUNTRIES WITH SUCH
DIVERGENT VIEWS WAS PROBABLY THE MOST SIGNIFICANT
ASPECT OF THE CONFERENCE AND AUGERS WELL FOR FUTURE
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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON FOOD.
E. THE ENHANCED PRESTIGE OF THE FAO WITHIN THE UN

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HIERARCHY IS AN ADDITIONAL PLUS.

2. THE UK DELEGATION FELT THAT THE CONFERENCE WAS

LESS SUCCESSFUL IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

A. EXCEPT FOR IRAN NO FIRM COMMITMENTS WERE MADE AND

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DOUBTS EXIST IF THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND PROPOSED BY THE OPEC COUNTRIES WILL GET OFF THE GROUND. ODM FEELS, HOWEVER, THAT ONE SHOULD NOT BE TOO PESSIMISTIC AS ESTABLISHMENT OF A FUND WAS ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE AND ONE SHOULD NOT EXPECT ARAB COMMITMENTS UNTIL IT IS ACTUALLY CONSTITUTED.

B. MAFF WAS DISAPPOINTED BUT NOT SURPRISED BY THE LACK OF CONCERN OF PRC AND USSR OVER SERIOUSNESS OF WORLD FOOD PROBLEM AND THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO THE PROPOSED FOOD INFORMATION SYSTEM. ODM WAS, HOWEVER, MORE OPTIMISTIC AND WAS CHEERED BY THE FACT THAT NEITHER COUNTRY CONDEMNED THE FOOD INFORMATION SYSTEM. ODM FEELS BOTH WILL COOPERATE WITH IT.

C. MAFF AND FCO EXPRESSED REGRET THAT IN MANY CASES THE CONFERENCE PROVIDED YET ANOTHER FORUM FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO EXPRESS THEIR ANIMOSITY TOWARDS THE INDUSTRIALIZED WEST. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ODM AGREED MORE WITH USG'S VIEW THAT POLEMICS HAD BEEN HELD TO A MINIMUM AND ODM WAS HEARTENED BY CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE OF MAJORITY OF LDCS.

D. FINALLY, THE DELEGATION THOUGHT IT ESPECIALLY UNFORTUNATE THAT SO LITTLE PROGRESS WAS MADE ON THE PROBLEM OF MAKING FERTILIZER MORE AVAILABLE TO LDCS.

3. MAFF CONCLUDED THAT IN LIGHT OF CONFERENCE'S HIGHLY POLITICAL SETTING ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS EXCEEDED MAFF'S MODEST EXPECTATIONS. ODM WHICH, ON THE OTHER HAND APPROACHED THE CONFERENCE MUCH MORE POSITIVELY, FELT IT WAS A MARKED SUCCESS. ODM AND FCO ALSO FEEL US MADE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO SUCCESS OF THE CONFERENCE THROUGH OUR POSITIVE APPROACH. THEY WERE PARTICULARLY ENTHUSIASTIC OVER OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION MADE BY AMBASSADOR MARTIN.

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